



NEWS RELEASE

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

The Idaho Water Center, 322 E. Front St., Boise ID -- Phone: (208) 287-4800 FAX: (208) 287-6700
www.idwr.idaho.gov

Release 2006-32

Water Board Approves Land Purchase near Aquifer Recharge Site

For Immediate Release
Boise, Idaho – June 8, 2006

For Media Information Contact:
Michael Keckler – (208) 287-4828

The Idaho Water Resource Board today unanimously approved a resolution allowing for the purchase of five acres land adjacent to state-owned property where Idaho's first managed recharge pilot project site will be located near Wendell.

The land is situated between the state property and the W-Canal, which will be used to feed water to the recharge site once it become operational. The State will construct a connecting channel from the W-Canal, across the property to the recharge site, sometime after the transaction is completed. The purchase price for the property is \$25,000.

The Board also unanimously approved the issuance of up to \$8 million in revenue notes to repay the State general fund as required under the Bell Rapids water rights purchase authorized last year by the Idaho Legislature. The Legislature appropriated money to the Board to make the purchase with the requirement that it be repaid to the general fund by July 1, 2006.

The revenue notes will be repaid with interest using lease payments from the Bureau of Reclamation, which agreed to lease most of the Bell Rapids water from the Board, for Endangered Species Act purposes.

Board members also discussed the scope and process for developing the East Snake Plan Aquifer management plan, as directed by the Legislature. The Board will hold a series of public hearings and work sessions throughout the summer. Information including hearing schedules will soon be posted on the IDWR website: www.idwr.idaho.gov

-end-